



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

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Contacts:
Veronica LaDuke
517-373-1725

Patrick Tiedt
517-373-1747

McManus, Booher announce legislation to save 400 jobs in Cadillac signed into law

LANSING - Legislation that would keep 400 manufacturing jobs in Cadillac was signed into law Monday, announced Sen. Michelle McManus and Rep. Darwin Booher.

Senate Bill 798, now Public Act 185, creates a rural retention credit within the Michigan Economic Growth Authority. This credit is available to rural businesses with more than 300 employees at risk of being closed and the work being sent out of state.

“This facility and the jobs it provides are vital to our regional economy,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “I am very happy we were able to respond so quickly to the foundry’s needs and keep these 400 jobs here in Cadillac.”

In Cadillac, it will allow a group of investors to purchase the Hayes Lemmerz facility and keep it in operation, saving 400 jobs that otherwise would have been sent out of state.

“This legislation is a lifeline for area families that rely on the foundry for jobs, not to mention for the city of Cadillac where the company serves as one of the major points for the local economy and infrastructure services,” said Booher, R-Ewart. “By offering this tax credit, the state has created a tool that will help make the Hayes-Lemmerz facility an attractive and affordable asset where the manufacturing business can continue.”

Hayes Lemmerz International, a worldwide supplier of auto parts, currently operates the facility, but is looking to close or sell the Cadillac foundry due to financial difficulties. With this new tax credit, the group of investors will be able to buy the plant and maintain current operations under a new name.

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